

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 DOTE-00 INT-05 SP-02 AID-05

EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OES-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01 FEA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /093 W
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R 110750Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8587

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3161

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP, JA

SUBJ: ECONCOM X

REF: STATE 052366

1. ON MARCH 11 E/C MIN REVIEWED US INITIAL PLANNING FOR ECONCOM X PER REFTEL WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY DG AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU FUKADA AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR KAWASHIMA OF ECONOMIC DIVISION. THEY UNDERTOOK CONSULT SUPERIORS AND GIVE US AN OFFICIAL REACTION PROMPTLY WHICH THEY THOUGHT WOULD TAKE ABOUT ONE WEEK DUE NEED OBTAIN VIEWS OF KEY GOJ CABINET MINISTERS AS WELL AS PM.

2. ON PERSONAL BASIS FUKADA SAID GOJ HAS SOMEWHAT MIXED ATTITUDE TOWARD CONVENING ECONCOM THIS YEAR. ON ONE HAND, GOJ ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS FORM AND WISHES TO AVOID UNDUE IN RHYTHM OF CABINET-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS; WITH LAST SESSION JULY 1973 AND MANY NEW CABINET OFFICERS ON BOTH SIDES, GOJ WANTS MEETING THIS YEAR IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. ON OTHER HAND, THERE IS
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PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF WHETHER ECONCOM CAN BE SCHEDULED SO AS

NOT TO OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT IN RELATION TO OTHER MAJOR EVENTS EITHER ALREADY SCHEDULED (EMPEROR'S VISIT). FUKADA SAID ONLY PM AND CABINET MINISTERS THEMSELVES CAN SORT OUT THESE AMBIVALENT ATTITUDES TOWARD HOLDING ECONCOM THIS YEAR. HE SAID GOJ HAS NOT FELT NEED THUS FAR TO ADOPT DEFINITE POSITION TOWARD ECONCOM THIS YEAR AS INITIATIVE SHOULD PROPERLY COME FROM US AS HOST. NOW THAT US HAS OUTLINED ITS THINKING, GOJ WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP A FULLY COORDINATED RESPONSE.

3. FUKADA AND KAWASHIMA WERE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD IDEAS IN PARAS 4-6 REFTEL. WE CONFIRMED OUR SUGGESTED AGENDA IS OPEN FOR GOJ AMENDMENT OR ADDITIONS.

4. WHEN WE SUGGESTED GOJ NEED NOT FEEL UNDER PRESSURE TO REACT AS QUICKLY AS WITHIN ONE WEEK, FUKADA OBSERVED FAIRLY QUICK RESPONSE DESIRABLE TO TRY HEAD OFF PRESS LEAKS IN VIEW LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS IN MANY AGENCIES WHO WOULD SOON KNOW ABOUT OR APPROACH.

5. COMMENT. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK PM AND GOJ MINISTERS WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN REACHING A POSITION AS PROMPTLY AS FUKADA ANTICIPATES. THEY MAY MAKE EQUIVOCAL COUNTER-PROPOSAL. FOR OUR GUIDANCE (IN CASE THIS GUESS IS WRONG AND GOJ PROMPTLY ACCEPTS OUR PROPOSAL FOR EARLY SEPT), IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW IF TIMING OUTLINED REFTEL MEANS WASHINGTON CONTEMPLATES HOLDING ECONCOM ON SATURDAY, SEPT 6 AND MONDAY, SEPT. 8 (WITH SEPT. 5 IN WILLIAMSBURG OR ELSEWHERE) OR WOULD WASHINGTON PREFER ECONCOM MONDAY-TUESDAY SEPT. 8-9 WITH SUNDAY IN WILLIAMSBURG.
HODGSON

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